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RICHARD N. GOODWIN
"Widespread Deception"



WILLIAM P. BUNDY
"Reasonable Fairness"

U.S. Aide, Goodwin Debate War Policy

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A Johnson administration official today cautioned the American people not to expect the coming elections in South Vietnam to be as fair as a United States election.

William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of state for Asia said the balloting scheduled for Sept. 3 would probably achieve only "a reasonable standard of fairness."

He likened the election there to one that might have been conducted in the United States in the late 19th century, thus indicating that it would not conform to present-day American standards.

Bundy made his remarks about the much-criticized South Vietnamese election during a debate in College Park with Richard N. Goodwin, a former speechwriter and assistant to both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

They debated U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war in an appearance before the National Student Association's 20th na-

tional meeting on the University of Maryland campus.

Goodwin, now an author and research fellow at Wesleyan University, bitterly criticized U.S. policy in Vietnam now saying:

"I believe there has never been such intent and widespread deception and confusion as surrounds this war."

He said the Johnson administration had either made "a tremendous miscalculation" about military action in Vietnam, "or

else the leaders have misled themselves and the American people."

Goodwin said he "senses" there will be some change in the administration's escalation of the war "in the near future."

He did not elaborate.

He noted that Johnson would have to defend Vietnam policy in an election campaign next year, and commented:

"The President cannot win this election unless he resolves this war."

Bundy's remarks about the Sept. 3 balloting for a South Vietnamese president and senate indicated that the administration was making an effort to head off criticism in this coun-

try of the Vietnam campaign as "a fraud."

Bundy said "there is very free expression during this campaign," adding that South Vietnam was inexperienced in free elections and was trying to conduct an election amid a "war situation."

The administration, he said, is exerting "all of our influence to see that this election will be conducted according to a reasonable standard of fairness, so that the average fellow feels he's had a chance to express himself."

"The possibility for a really free determination" by all the people of South Vietnam, including the Viet Cong, would have to be postponed until the future, "when external interference has been removed," Bundy said.

On the overall U.S. effort in South Vietnam, Bundy was generally optimistic. "If we proceed on our present course, with measured military action, and with every possible nonmilitary measure, and searching always for an avenue to peace, the prospects for a peaceful and secure Southeast Asia now appear brighter than they have been at any time since the nations of the area were established on an independent basis."

He seemed to discount any suggestion that the administration was ready now to stop the bombing of North Vietnam to get negotiations started, saying that "without any meaningful move on the North Vietnam side it would not be a fruitful path to peace."

Goodwin called the war an American "blunder, a mistake of costly and bloody dimensions," and rejected any suggestion that the Kennedy administration had taken steps to U.S. involvement.

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